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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATING TO INDIGENENOUS PEOPLES: AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Note by the Secretariat

The present note contains the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations at its inter-sessional consultations in March 2002 and at its fifteenth session, held in Geneva from 3 to 5 April 2002, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 27 March and 17 April 2002 respectively.

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Mandate of the Fund

1. The General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations by resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. The General Assembly, by resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995 decided that the Fund should also assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/32, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 1995.

2. The General Assembly further expanded the mandate of the Fund in its resolution 56/140 of 19 December 2001 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations in attending, as observers, the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This mandate has been immediately implemented by the Secretariat of the Fund and its Board of Trustees (see below paragraphs 6 and 7).

Board of Trustees

3. In accordance with the above mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, the mandate of the Board of Trustees, as subsidiary body to the Secretary-General is to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Board is composed of five persons with relevant experience in issues affecting indigenous populations, who serve in their personal capacity as United Nations experts. The Board members are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard for equitable geographical distribution, for a renewable three-year term. At least one member shall be a representative of a widely recognized organization of indigenous populations.

4. The five members who have been appointed by the Secretary-General for a three year term ending on 31 December 2002 are themselves indigenous experts: Mr. Michael Dodson (Australia), Ms. Naomi N. Kipuri (Kenya), Mr. José Carlos Morales Morales (Costa Rica), Ms. Tove S. Petersen (Greenland/Denmark) and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines; Chairperson of the Board).

Beneficiaries

5. The criteria for the selection of beneficiaries have been established by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as by the Secretary-General upon recommendations of the Board of Trustees (see annex I).

Inter-sessional consultations concerning the new mandate of the Fund

6. As soon as the General Assembly adopted its resolution 56/140 which expanded the mandate of the Fund, the secretariat of the Fund widely disseminated application forms to allow representatives of indigenous organizations and communities to present candidates to attend, as observers, the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York from 13

to 24 May 2002. The secretariat of the Fund received, analyzed and adopted decisions on the admissibility of more than 400 applications received from indigenous organizations and communities for this purpose.

7. During inter-sessional consultations, the Board of Trustees considered 323 admissible applications. Taking into consideration the criteria for selection and the amount of money already approved in the Cost Plan for 2002 upon recommendations made by the Board at its 14th session (US$138,000) the Board recommended 25 travel grants. The High Commissioner for Human Rights approved on behalf of the Secretary-General these recommendations on 27 March 2002. The secretariat of the Fund and Board informed all the applicants of the decisions adopted on their application. The list of beneficiaries appears in annex II.

Fifteenth session of the Board of Trustees

8. During the six meetings of its fifteenth session, held in Geneva from 3 to 5 April 2002, the Board of Trustees examined information prepared by its secretariat concerning: the financial situation of the Fund; new contributions paid and pledges made by Governments since the fourteenth session; applications for new travel grants to attend the 20th session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and applications for new travel grants to attend the 8th session of the Working Group established to elaborate a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. The Board also met with: representatives of donor Governments during its annual meeting with donors; specialized NGOs, DOCIP (Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information, Incomindios and the World Council of Churches; a programme manager of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

9. The contributions paid in time for the fifteenth session of the Board and pledges made are listed in annex III.

Implementation of the new mandate of the Fund on the Permanent Forum

10. The Board noted with satisfaction that during the inter-sessional period, its secretariat implemented the new mandate established by the General Assembly to enable 25 indigenous observers to attend the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues after a selection process and the screening of more than 400 applications. The Board appreciated that the High Commissioner immediately approved the recommendations on behalf of the Secretary-General and that the letters informing the beneficiaries had already been sent. This procedure was initiated and carried out in a very short delay to the satisfaction of the Board .

11. The Board recommended that the Bureau of the Permanent Forum at its first session in May 2002 invite the Chairperson or any other member of the Board or the secretariat of the Board and Fund who could be in New York during the session to deliver a statement introducing the new mandate given to the Fund by General Assembly resolution 56/140 of December 2001 and providing information on its implementation.

12. The Board recommended that the Secretary-General reports on the implementation of this new mandate in his biennial report to the 57th session of the General Assembly as well as in a special report to inform the Permanent Forum on the same, as a sessional document of the first session.

Implementation of recommendations adopted at the fourteenth session

13. The Board noted with satisfaction that all the recommendations adopted at its fourteenth session in 2001 (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/4) had been implemented by its secretariat.

Consideration of new applications for grants

14. The Board considered:

(a) Two hundred and thirty-two (232) new admissible applications for grants to cover travel and per diem expenses for representatives of indigenous organizations and communities to attend the twentieth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 22 to 26 July 2002;

(b) Twenty-seven (27) new admissible applications for grants to cover travel and per diem expenses for representatives to attend the eight session of the Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/32 to elaborate a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 2 to 13 December 2002.

Recommendations for grants

15. After having examined the applications in the light of the selection criteria (see annex I), the Board recommended the following:

(a) Seventy-eight (78) travel grants to allow representatives of indigenous communities and organizations (for a list of beneficiaries see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/6) to attend the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, for a total amount of about US$ 150,000.

(b) Sixteen travel (16) grants to allow representatives of indigenous communities and organizations (for a list of beneficiaries see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/6) to attend the Working Group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, for a total amount of about US$ 50,000.

16. The selection of beneficiaries reflects the admissible applications received, which might not be geographically balanced, as many applications were received from certain countries and none or a few ones only from others.

Other recommendations

17. The Board recommended to the Secretary-General to adopt a new guideline according to which a recommendation in favour of an applicant to attend a session of the Permanent Forum does not exclude another recommendation to attend a Working Group and vice-versa.

18. The Board confirmed its practice and recommended to the Secretary-General to adopt a new selection criteria according to which it will give priority to applicants living in their own community and country vis-a-vis applicants living abroad.

19. The Board decided to implement strictly its guideline according to which it will not consider an application not supported by a letter of recommendation duly signed by an executive

of their indigenous organization. Furthermore the Board recommended to the Secretary-General a new guideline according to which it will not examine a letter of support signed by the applicant herself/himself.

20. The secretariat and members of the Board attending a session of the Working Groups or the Permanent Forum will try to meet with beneficiaries. If necessary, they will remind them of their obligation to participate fully in all meetings.

21. During the session of a Working Group and the Permanent Forum, the secretariat should continue to organize an information meeting with indigenous representatives to explain how to apply for travel grants from the Fund.

Distribution of application forms

22. The Fund's application forms should be distributed as widely as possible. The Board members will also continue to actively distribute these application forms in their respective geographical area.

23. The Board recommended that the deadline for submitting application forms to attend the Permanent Forum and the Working Groups should be 1st October.

Trends in new applications received

24. The Board discussed the balance to be observed in 2003 in allocating grants between the Forum and Working Groups, taking into consideration the numbers of admissible applications received in 2002, the trend according to which a smaller number of applications are received for the Working Group on the Draft Declaration (27) and a larger number (more than 235) for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, as well as the new development which consists in a huge interest in attending the first session of the Permanent Forum (more than 400 applications).

Cost Plan for 2003

25. The Board approved the revised Cost Plan for 2003 and increased the amount of money recommended to the Secretary-General for allocation to beneficiaries of travel grants to attend the second session of the Permanent Forum, taking into consideration the large number of applications received to attend the first session of the Forum.

26. Taking into consideration the increased admissible number of applications to be reviewed by the Board and the new mandate given to the Board by the General Assembly, the Board recommended that two additional days for its annual session (currently three days) be scheduled for 2003.

27. For these reasons and taking also into consideration that the secretariat should have time to analyze and decide on the admissibility of applications to the second session of the Permanent Forum, which will be received before the deadline of 1st October, the Board considered that, to be able to review and adopt recommendations on all admissible applications in time, an additional session of three days should be scheduled at the end of February to discuss the allocation of travel grants for the Permanent Forum. The main session of the Board should continue to be held during the Commission on Human Rights in order to enable the Board to implement its fund raising mandate and to meet with donors.

Fund raising

28. The Board members informally met with donors during the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights and expressed appreciation to regular and new donors to the Fund.

29. The Board confirmed its practice to meet each year with donors on the last day of its session.

30. Board members recommended to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a letter of appeal in September 2002 to donors for additional contributions to be paid before its next session in order to allow the Board to further increase the number of grants and the representation of indigenous communities and organizations in 2002.

31. The Board recommended that the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights at its regular session should continue to invite the Chairperson or any other member of the Board who could be in Geneva during the session of the Commission to deliver a statement introducing the report on the Board's session, the implementation of the decisions of the Secretary-General, the needs of the Fund and to make appeal for new contributions.

32. Having met with the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 8 above, which provide assistance to representatives of indigenous communities and organizations attending the Working Group, as well as with UNITAR, the Board recommended that the secretariat continue its cooperation with these and other organizations.

Dates of the 16th session

33. The Board recommended that its 16th session should be scheduled prior to the consideration by the Commission on Human Rights of the relevant item on indigenous populations, if possible, from 31 March to 4 April 2003.

ANNEX I

Criteria for the selection of beneficiaries

According to General Assembly resolution 40/131, the only beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be representatives of indigenous populations' organizations and communities:

i) who are so considered by the Board of Trustees;

ii) who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Groups or the Permanent Forum without the assistance provided by the Fund;

iii) who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Groups or the Permanent Forum of the problems affecting indigenous populations and who would secure a broad geographical representation.

According to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32, in order to be able to attend the Commission on Human Rights' Working Groups, organizations must in addition have the ECOSOC consultative status or be authorized by the ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

In addition, the Secretary-General approved the following criteria upon recommendation by the Board:

(a) The representatives and the organizations applying for a grant should be indigenous;

(b) The Board does not consider applicants who do not provide a letter of support signed by an executive of their indigenous organization nor an applicant who is not an indigenous person;

(c) The Board only considers a maximum of 2 applicants per organization;

(d) Applicants are requested to submit application forms and recommendation letters in the working languages of the Board's secretariat (English, French or Spanish);

(e) The Board selects both, representatives who have never participated in a session of a Working Group or the Permanent Forum and representatives who already participated and could develop specialized capacity and strengthen the core group of participants in a Working Group or the Permanent Forum;

(f) The Board encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider gender balance and, if possible, propose one women and one men;

(g) The Board encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider nominating young persons;

(h) The Board encourages the former beneficiaries of the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme to apply for grants to represent their indigenous organization or community at sessions of the Working Groups or Permanent Forum by sending duly filled in application forms and meeting all the criteria for selection;

(i) Applicants are requested to indicate their responsibility in their organization or community;

(j) Applicants to the session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations are requested to refer in their statements to the specific theme of the year.

ANNEX II

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

BENEFICIARIES OF TRAVEL GRANTS TO ATTEND THE 1ST SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
(New York, 13-24 May 2002)

APPLICATION NO.	NAME --- INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF APPLICANT	ORGANIZATION'S NAME --- CITY, STATE	INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS REPRESENTED
		AFRICA	
38	Saoudata Aboubacrine (f) --- Touareg	Tin Hinan, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Touareg
254	Kapupu Diwa Mutimanwa (m) --- Pymee-Bambuti	Programme d'intégration et de développement du peuple Pygmée au Kivu, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo	Pygmee
218	Jorum Jurgen A.A. Useb (m) --- Haillom San (Bushmen)	Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA) Windhoek, Namibia	Different San cultural and language groups
219	Alfred Ilenre (m) --- Edo tribe	Ethnic Minority and Indigenous Rights Organisation of Africa (EMIROAF) Lagos, Nigeria	The Edo people
255	Hassan Idbalkassm (m) --- Amazig	Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC), Cape Town, ***South Africa***	Various indigenous peoples in Africa
246	Mary Simat (f) --- Masai	""	Masai
		AMERICA	
	1) NORTH AMERICA		
69	Ronald F. Barnes (m) --- Yup'ik ---	Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition - Tununak traditional Council Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America	Yup'ik, Eyak with Tlingit and Aleut affiliates, and Athabascan Alaska
	2) SOUTH AMERICA		
89	Carlos Mamani (m) --- Aymara (Pacajaqi) ---	Taller de Historia Oral Andina (THOA) La Paz, Bolivia	Andean indigenous peoples (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru)

[1] All the information contained in the chart is according to the information available in the application forms received

142	Nelly Ayenao Cotrena (f) --- Mapuche ---	Organizacion Mapuche Consejo de todas las tierras, Temuco, Chile	Mapuche
133	Juan Léon Alvarado (m) --- Maya K'iché ---	Defensoria Maya, Guatemala City, Guatemala	Maya
129	Carmen Octavia Perez Chavez (f) --- Zapoteca ---	Consejo Indigena de Oaxaca "Ricardo Flores Magon" CIPO-RFM, Oaxaca, Mexico	Zapotecas
76	Florina Lopez Miro (f) --- Kuna ---	Taller de Mujeres Kunas Panama	Kuna
		ASIA	
331	Mrinal Kanti Tripura (m) --- Tripura	Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) Rangamati Hills Tracts, Bangladesh	11 different indigenous peoples known as Jumma
190	Neingulo Krome (m) --- Naga	Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPHR) Kohima, Nagaland, India	Naga
269	Mierna Lukman (f) --- Lipulaalo	Alliance of Indigenous People of Archipelago (AMAN), Palu, Sulawesi Tengah, Indonesia	Laalo
304	Kaori Tahara (f) --- Ainu	Ainu Association of Sepporo Sapporo, Japan	Ainu
316	Sirjana Subba (f) --- Limbu	Association of Limbu Shamans Kathmandu, Nepal	Limbu
1	Jannie Lasimbang (f) ---- Kadazan	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Chiang Mai, Thailand	Various indigenous peoples in Asia
		EUROPE	
28	Aviaaja Lynge (f)[2] --- Inuit-Greenlandic	Inuit Youth International, Nuuk, Denmark	Inuit
12	Gulvaira Shermatova (f) --- Kumandin	Altay regional public organization of the Kumadin People "Istoc", Altay, Russian Federation	Kumadin
22	Oleg Zaporotzkii (m) --- Itelmen	Survival Council of Itelemen of Kamchatka "Tchasanom", Koryak region, Palana, Russian Federation	Itelemen
7	Pavel Sulyandziga (m) --- Udege	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), Moscow, Russian Federation	Udege

[2]The beneficiary was not able to attend the session and upon recommendation of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the Secretariat decided to accept Mr. Mike Lynge as replacement.

OCEANIA			
53	Vonda Moar (f) --- Torres Strait Islander descent ---	Torres Strait National Authority Thursday Island, Queesnland, Australia	Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people
54	Anthony Sinclair (m) --- Maori ---	Te Kawau Maro Auckland, New Zealand	Maori (Ngati Porar-East Coast of New Zealand)
93	Mildred Kafa (f)[3] --- Katova ---	Zazao Environment Rights Organization, Honiara, Solomon Islands	Katova

[3]The beneficiary was not able to attend the session and upon recommendation of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the Secretariat decided to accept Mr. Ian Aujare as replacement.

ANNEX III

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

I. Contributions available at the 15th session of the Board in April 2002[1]

Country/ NGO/ Individual	Amount (US$)	Paid on
Canada	9 530 18 826	06.09.2001 01.02.2002
Chile	5 000 10 000	29.09.2000 07.06.2001
Denmark	35 299	11.09.2002
Finland	33 996	20.09.2001
France	29 613	11.09.2001
Greece	6 300	16.08.2001
Holy See	1 000	19.01.2002
New Zealand	10 975	26.02.2002
Norway	56 642	12.03.2002
Switzerland	23 392	10.01.2002
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	116	29.08.2001
Grand Total: 240.189		

II. Pledges made

State	Amount (US$)	Pledged on
Bolivia	1 000	2-3.11.1999[2]
Chile	5 000	7-8.11.2001[3]
Cyprus	2 000	06.2.2002
Venezuela	5 000	7.11.2001
Total	**13 000**	

[1] According to Official Receipt vouchers available at OHCHR

[2] Pledge made at the 1999 UN Pledging Conference on Development Activities in New York

[3] Pledge made at the 2001 UN Pledging Conference on Development Activities in New York